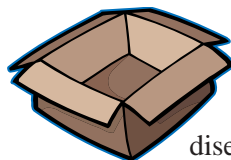


The VVFC News Alert  
**BACKPAGE**  
 August 2003

## Look What Just "Flu" IN!



It is that time of year again... Influenza season! VVFC will be taking advanced Influenza orders. Enclosed in this mailing you will find the VVFC Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Order Form. Determine your Influenza vaccine need for your VVFC eligible patients for the entire season and fill out the order form. **VVFC supplies Influenza vaccine only for those children who meet the requirements listed on the order form.** VVFC requests that each practice only send one order form. All orders must be received by October 2, 2003. Vaccine shipments will begin when Influenza vaccine is received by our distributor. Practices may receive partial shipments throughout the season. For your convenience, we have also included the American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement, "Reduction of the Influenza Burden in Children" and the Influenza VIS.



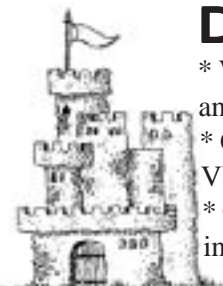
## Vaccine Storage

Vaccine storage is extremely important to ensure protection from vaccine preventable diseases for Virginia's children. Here are a few tips on how to get your storage in excellent shape:

- ✓ Don't dump vaccines in a box or storage bin. Organize by vaccine type and place the vaccines with the earliest expiration date in the front.
- ✓ Store vaccines on the shelves and not on the doors. Doors do not keep proper temperatures for viability.
- ✓ Log and monitor temperatures daily. Document actions taken when temperatures are out of range. Keep your temperature logs for three years.
- ✓ Design an emergency plan for power outages to minimize vaccine loss.
- ✓ Report any unused vaccine to the VVFC office. You should be able to account for every dose shipped to your facility.

## Did you know???

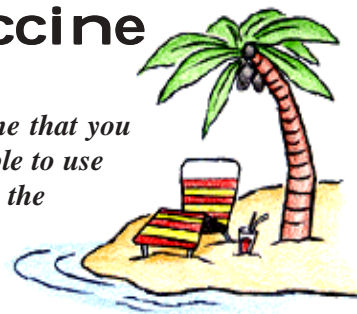
- \* With combination vaccines, the VIS for each antigen must be distributed and documented.
- \* Children in Medicaid HMOs are eligible for VVFC vaccines. FAMIS kids are not eligible.
- \* GlaxoSmithKline's DTaP, Infanrix, received indication for the fifth dose in the DTaP series.



**VDH** VIRGINIA  
 DEPARTMENT  
 OF HEALTH  
 Protecting You and Your Environment  
[www.vdh.state.va.us](http://www.vdh.state.va.us)

## Viable Vaccine Returns

*Do you have extra vaccine that you don't think you will be able to use before it expires? Notify the VVFC Order Center and we can give it to someone who can!*



Many practices overestimate their vaccine needs or their patient load decreases and they have leftover vaccine. Vaccine expiring in two or more months can be returned to our distributor (GIV) and shipped out to another VVFC provider. Simply fill out a VVFC Return Form and indicate "VIAABLE" as the reason for return. VVFC will have GIV contact you and arrange for vaccine pick up. Does the vaccine expire in less than two months? If so, we can attempt to transfer it to another provider in your area. When filling out the VVFC Return Form, indicate "TRANSFER" as the reason for return. If there is another VVFC provider in your area that you would like to receive the vaccine, please write the practice name on the bottom of your return form. If you have any questions about viable vaccine returns, please contact the VVFC Order Center at 1-877-781-VVFC.



## VVFC Awards

### Outstanding VVFC Compliance

*Augusta Pediatrics, Fishersville*

*Chase City Family Practice, Chase City*

*RU Clinics, Radford*

### Exceptional Immunization Rates

*Carilion Pediatric Medicine, Roanoke*

*Pediatricare of Northern Virginia, Manassas*

*Primary Care Center of the Children's Medical Center, Charlottesville*

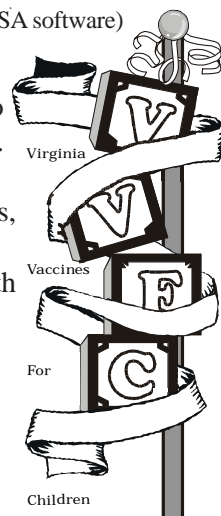
*Virginia Beach Pediatrics, Va Beach*

*Vogel Pediatrics, Va Beach*

(Immunization rates exceed 90% using CASA software)

## Vaccine Holds

Quality Assurance visits often bring to light inadequate storage temperatures. Please be sure to obtain adequate storage for all of the required vaccines, including Varicella, in three to six months. It is part of your contract with VVFC to provide care in compliance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices



PLEASE REMEMBER TO ORDER YOUR VACCINES NO MORE THAN EVERY THREE MONTHS (4 TIMES A YEAR), UNLESS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED.  
 QUESTIONS? CALL THE VVFC OFFICE AT 1-800-568-1929.